

Noxious and Invasive Weed Update

Plant Protection and Weed Control

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Special points of interest:

- KDA Tamarisk Survey
- New Noxious Weed Regulations
- Musk Thistle Control
- Tamarisk Control Efforts
- Hydrilla—Worst Aquatic Weed in US

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Tamarisk Helicopter Survey Concludes in 2006

Tamarisk poses a threat to Kansas' rivers, lakes, and wetlands due to its ability to invade and replace native vegetation. Quarantined by KDA in 2005, tamarisk is characterized as an invasive plant that uses large quantities of water, produce up to 2.3 million seeds, and increases the salinity of the soil.

Taking inventory of Tamarisk is a main objective of "The 10-year Strategic Plan for Controlling Tamarisk", prepared by the Kansas Water Office. So, working with USDA through a Cooperative Agriculture Pest Survey (CAPS), KDA was able to complete the final year of

the three year helicopter tamarisk survey in September of 2006. The 2006 survey took place over parts of the Pawnee River watershed in Finney County, Cedar Bluff Lake, Kirwin Lake, Webster Lake, and parts of Waconda Lake in northwestern and north-central Kansas.

Almost 8,000 acres of tamarisk was identified with the 2006 survey. A majority of the acres was identified near and around the lakes, but tamarisk was surprisingly absent at the upper end of

each lake's flood plain.

Overall, the entire three year project identified over 55,000 acres of Tamarisk located in the Arkansas, Cimarron River Basins, and the previously mentioned locations.

-jvogel



Taking off from the Hill City Airport prior to beginning the day's survey. - jvogel

New Noxious Weed Regulations effective April 27th

New noxious weed regulations updating the approved Herbicides Available for Cost-Share List and the Official Control Programs took effect April 27th. These new regulations allow counties to sell additional herbicides at a reduced price to control noxious weeds.

Added to the cost-share list include aminopyralid (Milestone), diflufenzopyr + dicamba

(Overdrive), diquat + glyphosate (QuikPro), and fofamsulfuron (Option). Milestone and Overdrive give new control options for musk thistle, Canada thistle, and bull thistle. In addition Overdrive in combination with picloram offers additional control options for leafy spurge. QuikPro can provide control for field bindweed while Option is for johnsongrass control in corn.

Removed from the cost-share list were MSMA which lost its EPA registration and fosamine (Krenite), which was not being cost-shared

Please contact your local weed director for any further questions and as always please follow all label directions and precautions.

-jvogel

Time to Control Musk Thistle

As we move into late spring, musk thistle plants will begin to bolt, flower, and consequently become more visible. Although the flowers make musk thistle more visible, a great time to treat is right now prior to flowering. Once the plant is budded, the only control method to prevent seed production is clipping the heads and digging the plants.

So it only makes sense to get out early to treat musk thistle. This year, several more chemical op-

tions are available at cost-share prices. The availability of the herbicide and cost-share level depends on the county that you live.

Milestone (amino-pyralid) at 3-5 fl oz/acre is label to control musk thistle for rosette thru bolting in pastures and non-cropland. Overdrive (dicamba +diflufenzopyr) may be applied from rosette to early bud stage at 4 oz/acre.

Which ever herbicide you choose to control musk



Musk thistle in bloom. Photo by Bill Scott, KDA

thistle, please read and follow all label directions and precautions.

-jvogel



Musk thistle bolting, prior to bloom. Photo by Bill Scott, KDA

Controlling Tamarisk in Finney County

Prior to 2006, other than small demonstration plots, no one has ever tried to control tamarisk on a large scale in Kansas. During September of 2006, collaborating with the State Conservation Commission, KDA, Kansas Water Office, and the Finney County Weed Department, a large scale effort was undertaken to control tamarisk on the Pawnee River watershed and several Playa lakes in Finney County.

Habitat© with the active ingredient imazapyr and made by BASF is a postemergence aquatic herbicide labeled for control of tamarisk in lake,

river, and wetland areas. Habitat can be broadcast applied by helicopter in the late summer but the tamarisk must not be disturbed until two years after application to achieve good control. Although Habitat is a non-selective herbicide, a helicopter can apply the herbicide precisely so to avoid other native species.

Sky Copters Inc. from Ulysses, KS was contracted to spot spray a total of 130 acres of tamarisk in Finney County using Habitat. The herbicide was applied in late September, prior to leaf drop and the application was logged using GPS technology.

Logging the application allows us to analyze the application before herbicide symptoms are seen. This lets us target missed plants with a follow-up treatment immediately.

Overall, tamarisk control is expected to be good, but will not be known precisely for several years.

-jvogel



Helicopter applying Habitat © to tamarisk in Finney County during late September. Photo by Keith Foster, Finney County



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Plant Protection and Weed Control staff work to ensure the health of the state's native and cultivated plants by excluding or controlling destructive pests, diseases and weeds. Staff examine and analyze pest conditions in crop fields, rangelands, greenhouses and nurseries. Action taken to control potential infestations of new pests, whether they are insects, plants diseases or weeds, is beneficial to the economy and the environment.

Our mission is to:

- Exclude or control harmful insects, plant diseases, and weeds;
- Ensure Kansas plants and plant products entering commerce are free from quarantined pests;
- Provide customers with inspection and certification services.

Aquatic Weed Corner—Hydrilla

In an attempt to increase awareness of aquatic weeds, KDA will review in every issue a significant invasive aquatic weed, which poses a threat to Kansas rivers, lakes, and wetlands.

Hydrilla is a Federal Noxious Weed and was first introduced to the US in the 1950s via the aquarium trade in Florida. Today it is considered the worst aquatic weed in the US due to its ability to grow in lower light conditions and its aggressive reproductive nature using tubers, plant

parts, and turions. Hydrilla is characterized by leaves in a whorl of 5 with teeth on the margins of leaves perceptible to the naked eye.

Once hydrilla is established, eradication becomes difficult so preventing the introduction becomes the main objective. Kansas received its first positive report in a Lawrence water garden during the summer of 2006 and KDA along with the owner worked to eradicate the infestation.

-jvogel



Hydrilla—Photo by by Vic Rmeny. Copyright 1999